METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING MULTIMEDIA MESSAGING SERVICE

CLAIMS OF PRIORITY

[0001] This application claims the benefit of the earlier filing date, pursuant to 35 USC 119, to that patent application entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING MULTIMEDIA MESSAGING SERVICE" filed in the Korean Intellectual Property Office on May 9, 2006 and assigned Serial No. 2006-0041329, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention
[0003] The present invention relates to a method and an apparatus for providing a multimedia messaging service, and more particularly, to a method and an apparatus for providing a multimedia messaging service by using a Digital Living Network Alliance (hereinafter, DLNA) network.
[0004] 2. Description of the Prior Art
[0005] Due to development in communication technology and popularization of mobile terminals, mobile terminals have become capable of supporting various functions, such as character transmission and image transmission, in addition to voice communication. In particular, with increasing serviceable area of a mobile communication network, transmission and reception of a multimedia message have been enabled utilizing the mobile terminals.
[0006] The multimedia message includes multimedia files such as a photo, moving picture, and music files. However, in the prior art, the multimedia files must be stored in a multimedia message preparation apparatus in advance. That is, only the multimedia files stored in the multimedia message preparation device may be added to the multimedia message.
[0007] For example, in the case of preparing a multimedia message by using a mobile terminal, only the multimedia files pre-stored in the mobile terminal may be added to the multimedia message. In the case of preparing a multimedia message by using a personal computer, only the multimedia files pre-stored in the personal computer may be added to the multimedia message.
[0008] Therefore, the multimedia message preparation apparatus must secure multimedia files in order to add to a multimedia message. In the case of adding a certain image to a multimedia message, a user must store an image file in the multimedia message preparation apparatus in advance, and prepare the multimedia message by using the image file.
[0009] Accordingly, selection of multimedia files to be added to a multimedia message is limited. In the case of a mobile terminal, the number of multimedia files to be stored in the memory is limited and selection of the multimedia files to be added to a multimedia message is further limited, as storage capacity is limited due to operational characteristics in supporting mobility and portability.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] The present invention has been made in view of the above problems, and an object of the present invention is to provide a method and an apparatus for a multimedia messaging service enabling free addition of multimedia files to a multimedia message.

[0011] Another object of the present invention is to provide a method and an apparatus for a multimedia messaging service by using a DLNA network.
[0012] In order to achieve the above objects, a method for providing a multimedia messaging service according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention includes the steps of collecting multimedia contents accessible through a network in response to a request for preparing a multimedia message, generating the multimedia message including multimedia file access information by selecting a multimedia file from the collected multimedia contents, converting the multimedia message to a web page, transmitting the web page as an Internet mail, extracting the multimedia file access information from the web page included in the mail after receiving the mail, accessing a multimedia file by using the multimedia file access information, and executing the multimedia file. Accordingly, the present invention provides free selection of multimedia files to be added to a multimedia message, and easier preparation of a multimedia message.
[0013] The step of collecting multimedia contents preferably includes the steps of requesting the multimedia contents accessible through a first DLNA (Digital Living Network Alliance) network to which a mobile terminal of a sender of the multimedia message is connected; and receiving the multimedia contents including the multimedia file access information through the first DLNA network.
[0014] The step of generating the multimedia message preferably includes the steps of selecting at least one multimedia file to be added to the multimedia message from multimedia files included in the received multimedia contents, extracting the address of the first DLNA network in which the selected multimedia file is stored and generating the multimedia message including the extracted address of the first DLNA network.
[0015] In the step of converting the multimedia message, the multimedia message is preferably converted to the web page by using Hyper Text Markup Language (hereinafter, HTML).
[0016] The step of extracting the multimedia file access information preferably includes the steps of identifying whether the web page included in the received mail is a multimedia message, transmitting, if the web page is a multimedia message, a notifying signal of reception of a multimedia message to a mobile terminal of a receiver by detecting the telephone number of the mobile terminal of the receiver, transmitting the web page to the mobile terminal of the receiver by converting the web page to a mobile terminal display format according to a request signal for viewing the multimedia message and extracting multimedia file access information included in the multimedia message according to a request signal for executing the multimedia file.
[0017] The step of accessing the multimedia file preferably includes the steps of transmitting, through Internet, the request signal for executing the multimedia file including the multimedia file access information to the first DLNA network to which the sender's mobile terminal is connected and requesting the multimedia file to an instrument storing multimedia files in the first DLNA network by using the multimedia file access information.
[0018] The step of executing the multimedia file preferably includes the steps of receiving the multimedia file from a multimedia file storage unit connected to the first DLNA network, transmitting, through Internet, the multimedia file